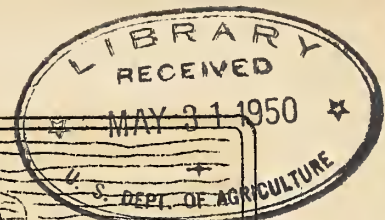


Historic, archived document

Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.



Vol. 6, No. 11

November - 1941

THE FARMER IN THE DELL

By E. L. Perry, R.O.

LIBRARY
 Prairie States
 Forestry Project

I think that one of the most significant and beneficial changes that has come about in agriculture in this country is one that you never hear about. It has to do with the really profound improvement in the farmer's social status during the past two decades, a change that anyone under 40 cannot readily appreciate.

How short a time ago it seems that the tiller of the soil was a rube, a hick, a hayseed, the butt of countless urban jokes. Even as late as the last war when an exasperated drill sergeant exhausted his vocabulary of milder expletives, he withered the luckless recruit with "You blankety, blank farmer." And can't you remember the old ballad that ran: A Reuben from Reubenville came to town; When he got back he was done up brown. Somebody hollered "Get on to the jay! A horse chewed his whiskers, he thought they were hay," etc., etc.

And it all had a very bad effect on land management and conservation. Practically every farmer's ambition, secret or otherwise, was to wring a competence from the land if possible, then shake its dust from his feet, move to town, and become a "gentleman." Retired business men might create estates in the country, but a retired farmer always moved to town, built a gingerbread-decorated house, and wore an uncomfortable collar. He did not want his children to grow up with the stigma of "farmer" chained to them; he wanted them to be lawyers or doctors, if possible, but failing that almost anything was better than being a farmer. In the meantime, the land was something to be milked as dry as possible and then gotten rid of.

But how the farmer's standing in society has changed today! Twenty years ago agricultural workers mumbled a little when they had to use the word "farmer," but not so today. Today the stage rustic with scraggly whiskers and cowhide boots is as dead as the dodo, and the only stories you hear about the farmer's daughter have to do with her winning the local popularity contest.

Just when this remarkable transformation began I am not sure, but probably it was with the organization of the first farm bloc in Congress. It was then

that the farmer began to be politically important and hence the object of public attention. That was not the only reason, of course; the automobile had a great deal to do with it, bringing the country to the city and vice versa, for that shoulder-rubbing process that breaks down social barriers. And the mechanization of farm processes which gave the farmer leisure he had never before even dreamed of was a contributing factor.

Whatever the reasons, observe the change it is bringing about in the farmer's regard for the land. No longer does he want to move to town and retire. He is coming to want instead to build up the farm as a business enterprise which he can manage as long as he lives and then pass on to his children. A few years ago about all that he wanted of his agricultural college was instruction in how to grow more corn to raise more hogs to buy more land to raise more corn, so on ad infinitum. So naturally that was the kind of instruction he got. Agricultural workers knew all about the need for soil conservation, but John Farmer wasn't having any at that time. What he wanted was cash from the land. Probably some of the present-day humble eagerness to soak up conservation lore is born of the late economic distress, but more of it I venture to say stems from the farmer's new acceptance of farming as a desirable way of life.

The older countries went through the same sort of growing pains and eventually arrived at the same end. In England today, the city man's idea of earthly paradise is to acquire a farm, however tiny, and become a "gentleman." The ownership of land is a jealously guarded heritage, and needless to say, nothing is left undone to keep it in the pink of condition.

I think we too are rapidly approaching even that sort of esteem for the land; certainly the voice of the conservationist is no longer as one crying in the wilderness. The unborn generations are coming into their own, and when they arrive I hope they will be able to understand that something more than just cussedness impelled great-grandpap to put those lasting scars upon the face of nature.

HOW ABOUT A BRACE OR TWO OF PTAFMIGAN?

Records are now being submitted by cooperators in the Cherokee District regarding wildlife observed on their farms since the planting of their tree belts. Only a small portion of the reports have come in to date, but even now some very gratifying - as well as some grating - information has become available.

Among the wildlife listed are rabbits, webworms, caterpillars, and crows. There is some question here as to whether the "wildlife" or the farmer was the wilder. No one has reported snakes yet, or elephants.

Twenty pheasants, forty quail, and two prairie chickens were seen in one 1941 belt. This happens to be a good belt in a remote area and it is safe to assume that at least part of the birds seen will spend the winter there and probably nest there next year.

Fortunately this farmer happens to be a true conservationist. I heard him remark with fervor that he would more likely shoot hunters than birds on his place. I have been leaving my gun at home.

- Fred R. Yaruss, Okla.

FOOD-FOR-FREEDOM

The USDA Office of Information in Lincoln in its current bulletin to Departmental agencies in this region has the following to say about the Food-for-Freedom campaign:

"It's been a whirlwind campaign so far. Everyone has helped and I've heard comparatively little complaint on the whole thing. In most places, AAA bore the brunt of the farm-to-farm visits -- but AAA had some swell help. Many a county agent, SCS technician, FSA supervisor helped with the canvass. Others, too. If the campaign is a success so far, that's why.

"Now the real job begins. Farmer intentions must be translated into performance. It's pretty largely an information job, hence there's work for every information man and editor. In every bulletin, press release, radio script, exhibit, or whatever, there ought to be room for a plug on food production. Some of your messages will be entirely on the subject. Everything can be 'slanted' that way.

You've been laying a foundation for the last 90 days. What you do in the next three to six months will have a vital bearing on results in 1942."

WILL HISTORY REPEAT?

It is generally true of life that what we don't have or that which we find the greatest difficulty in keeping, is the very thing that we desire most. Perhaps this is why trees are so highly valued in the Prairie States. Probably nowhere in this country does the individual tree have such high potential value as in the mid-continental section of the United States. This was just as true in the past as at the present time. Hence it is not at all surprising that many of the prominent early-day foresters were natives of the Prairie States, as their appreciation of trees was early developed. As evidence in support of this statement, an analysis of this year's nominees presented for election as Fellows in the Society of American Foresters is of interest. Let it be understood that the nomination of a forester to become a Fellow is one of the highest honors that can be granted by the Society of American Foresters. It is a real badge of distinction to each individual. Of 27 nominees presented for election as Fellows, 8 were born in the four states of Nebraska, Iowa, Kansas and Missouri, or approximately 30 percent of the total. Of these 8, three are natives of Nebraska. Nebraska, therefore, furnished 11 percent of the 27 nominees up for election. This total is equalled only by the populous State of New York. This predominance of Nebraskans is largely due to the influence of the late great botanist and forester, Charles E. Bessey, who was for many years head of the Department of Botany at the University of Nebraska.

Forestry was of particular interest at the turn of the century to young men in the Prairie States. Will history repeat itself now as the result of increased tree-planting activities? There is ample evidence that it will.

- Ernest Wright, R.O.

- ooo -

When looking at ourselves, we call it firmness. When looking at others, we call it stubbornness and meanness. - Brass Tacks, by Col. Wm. C. Hunter.

WHY NOT TREE MEDICINE?

I was interested in Mr. Asp's article in October PLAINS FORESTER, especially point No. 3 - "We ought to have a course in tree medicine." I don't know just how serious Mr. Asp was when he made this side statement, but I do believe it.

We are asked many questions that are outside the scope of forestry but, as pointed out in Mr. Asp's article, we are also almost daily quizzed about things that have to do with trees.

We have set ourselves up as foresters and to a very small extent have proved our right to this honorable title, at least in the minds of part of the public we serve, by having initiated the growing of trees where skeptics said they would not grow. Therefore, this same public feels we should know the answer to all problems relating to trees.

As demonstrated by past experience, trees do not "just grow" like "Topsy," in the Plains country. Therefore, people are more interested in the few trees they have around the place because of the effort it has taken to get them there. As "Sagebrush Foresters," I believe we could greatly add to our I&E work and further the shelterbelt cause if we were better equipped to give more definite and accurate answers to some of the questions asked us regarding the ailments of these "pet trees."

Numerous questions are asked regarding leaf diseases which, from a shelterbelt standpoint, are not usually a serious factor. Quoting from the T. M. Handbook, "They may retard growth to some extent, but spraying would not be economically justified except in nurseries."

The Home Demonstration Agent sends Mrs. Jones to my office to find out what to do about the poplar tree in her back yard. "The leaves are spotted and turning yellow and brown, and falling off."

What to do? It is probably a leaf rust, *Melampsora* spp. I spend five minutes trying to find out what the trouble is and another ten minutes telling the caller I don't know of anything she can do for the sick tree. Of course, I try to explain it isn't fatal and it will leaf out next spring - probably. Result--Two public officials fell down on the job, the Home Demonstration Agent and, worst of all, "a forester."

I'm walking home to lunch. Mr. Smith calls from his back yard. His Chinese elm is sick. "Leaves all turnin' yellow." I go to the back yard for a look.

Yes, they are turning yellow. Probably what they call chlorosis. May be due to lack of iron. I've already read some place, I don't know when or where, that ferrous sulphate is good for this sort of ailment but I don't know how much to use on trees of various sizes. Result--Mr. Smith and I both eat a cold lunch. His tree continues to fail in health, and what is more, he thinks I'm a heck of a "tree man."

Suppose Mr. Smith owned a farm and needed a shelterbelt. Suppose by chance I could have cured his tree. What a wonderful opportunity to get acquainted on common ground. The Joneses and the Smiths take up a good deal of time, anyway - why not make such contacts more profitable for all of us?

I, for one, would appreciate a good ready reference to a cure for some of these tree ailments.

- Marvin G. Angle, Tex.

DEFENSE BOND CAMPAIGN GETS UNDER WAY

The sale of national defense bonds and stamps to Federal employees is being organized on a nation-wide basis. The personnel of the Regional Office of the PSFP has entered into this campaign whole-heartedly, and the first report to the Washington Office makes a very good showing for our group of 20 employees. This report covers the Regional Office only, as the pledge cards and literature in connection with the drive were not sent to the States in time for them to get started in October. We are hoping for a good response from them by the next report date, December 7.

Malcolm Stuart, who is serving as Group Agent, says that 18 pledges have been made to date. They call for the purchase of a total of \$211.00 worth of national defense bonds and stamps per month, an average of \$11.72 per pledge. Purchases to November 1 exceeded \$800.00, of which about \$500.00 had been made before our campaign began. The Bond Campaign Committee would like to take credit for the great effort these excellent results seem to imply, but the credit really belongs to our very willing "customers."

- Mildred C. Stamper, R.O.

FEDERAL FORESTERS FAVOR FOLIAGE FOR FRONTIER

Did you see the Washington Office news release which contained the following excerpt?

"The region examined is prairie land, very fertile, and for the most part devoted to profitable farming. But the hot, dry winds from the southwest are very injurious in summer, while the crops are maturing; in the long winters the piercing cold winds from the northwest are a menace to livestock as well as a source of great discomfort. Hence windbreaks along the south, west, and north sides of farms, buildings, and inclosures contribute largely to the welfare of farm life. It is of the first importance that the kinds of trees composing these windbreaks should be those which will most quickly reach the size demanded to furnish efficient protection, and at the same time permanently hold their ground and perform their office."

Come to think of it, you probably didn't see the story, after all. It was released some 36 years ago - to be exact, on March 2, 1905 - by the Bureau of Forestry. Space does not permit reprinting the entire article, but it had to do with an investigation by Agents of the Bureau, of planted groves and natural timber in the eastern half of the two Dakotas and the western third of Minnesota. A subhead said "The Bureau of Forestry Advises the Dakotas and Minnesota to Plant More Trees and to Select the Kinds with Greater Care." The release was unearthed by Pathologist Ernest Wright.

SOUTH DAKOTA DEFENSE BOARD CHAIRMAN COMMENDS FOREST SERVICE

The Shelterbelt organization in South Dakota has just received a commendation that has heavily taxed the expansion powers of our ego. It puts us in much the same position as the rooster who, in displaying an ostrich egg before his flock said, "Girls, I just wanted you to know what is being accomplished in other places." In order that this commendation be aired instead of hidden under wraps, we are rushing it to PLAINS FORESTER.

At the regular meeting of the South Dakota Agricultural Defense Committee on November 6, Chairman Al Barnes sprung the above-mentioned compliment. This was the first meeting of the State Committee following the completion of the first round of County Defense meetings. Barnes took some time at this meeting to discuss the results and accomplishments of the county meetings. Barnes has been particularly anxious to get unity and cooperation of all the USDA agencies in the State on this defense movement. He asked his AAA field men (who attended all county meetings in their respective districts) to report to him on how the various agencies cooperated and how active a part each is playing in the State. In analyzing the reports of his field men, Barnes told the State Committee, "The cooperation and activity of the shelterbelt boys in this defense movement in this State have been the most outstanding." Those are his exact words because I wrote them down. He then went on to say that the Forest Service boys have proved that an agency which cannot see its direct connection with the increased production of eggs, dairy products, or pork during the next year or two can take just as active a part in the defense movement as can the dairy, poultry and hog people themselves.

Naturally, we are mighty well pleased and we had to tell somebody outside of our own "dung-hill." If Ed Perry won't put this in the next issue, we'll at least have the satisfaction of knowing that his secretary read it.

- A. L. Ford, S.Dak.

(Note from Ed Perry to Secretary: I don't believe that yarn about the hens, but this is a tough guy and we better not monkey with his script too much. Oh, so you think he's cute, eh? Well, they do say there's no accounting for some people's taste.)

TEXTBOOK PUBLISHER WANTS SHELTERBELT DATA

We have recently received a request from the American Book Company, New York publishers of textbooks, for information regarding the shelterbelt program. This is to be included in a revision of the North Dakota edition of their Basal Fifth Grade Geography. This material will include accomplishments to date and other material on benefits. We will send some photos for them to choose from should they wish to put in a picture. This will surely get the shelterbelt on the map all over the State and will no doubt result in teacher and student requests for an abundance of literature on the project work.

- F. E. Cobb, N.Dak.

TOO MUCH OF A GOOD THING?

In its early days the shelterbelt planting program was panned by some critics because they understood that one of its purposes was to increase rainfall. The foresters indignantly repudiated the suggestion that they harbored any such hopes, and even trotted out what they considered to be abundant evidence that in the forest-rainfall relationship the forest occupies the role of effect and not cause. Needless to say, we made the admission with none too great enthusiasm because it is no secret that there are few occasions when this region could not use a little more rain.

Imagine our astonishment then to find the following news item in the Leader-Courier of Kingman, Kansas, where, for a change, the precipitation has this year been ample, to put it mildly:

"Mrs. Claud Amerman feels that the numerous shelterbelts planted during recent years may be responsible for the excessive rainfall this year. She advocates removal of half the trees for restoration of normal rainfall."

SIMPLICITY IN EXHIBITS

Once in a blue moon we get a report upon an exhibit, demonstration trip, or similar attempt to educate the public, which contains some real, down-to-earth suggestions for bettering the performance. One such was recently submitted by J. E. Longmoor of Oklahoma in connection with a county fair exhibit.

This exhibit consisted of two miniature farms, one protected by shelterbelts and the other not. In commenting on the reaction of visitors, Longmoor says that they were rather critical of the details and that not more than 50% grasped the true significance of the display. The reason, he thinks, was that the layout was too elaborate as to detail. As a remedy he suggests "eliminate farm detail as much as possible," because he thinks it not only confuses the visitor but distracts attention from the main idea. It also furnishes more things for the critical to criticize. He vows in the future to make his exhibits "more foolproof" in that respect.

Everyone who has ever watched Homo sapiens wind his way among the exhibits at a fair will concede that Longmoor has a point there. As a general rule the simpler they are the better they take, just as long as they tell the story. One of the most successful exhibits this scribe ever saw was at a 1914 automobile show - if you can imagine that - where a single Model-T Ford sat in solitary splendor in a booth, and a concealed phonograph repeated at intervals, "It gets you there - and it gets you back." People stayed away from the elaborate exhibits of the Winton Six and the American Underslung with their silver-tongued attendants in droves to gawk at the single "Tin Liz," with the equally tinny but simple and positive statement.

- E. L. Perry, R.O.

KANSAS HAS NEW RADIO PROGRAM

According to an address card received from Robert A. Dellberg, the Project has opened a new radio program on Station KANS at Wichita, Kansas. The program is a ten-minute spot each Wednesday at 1:05 p.m.

THINNING COTTONWOOD

A study was made in the Dunlap concentration area in Texas, during this past growing season, of the effect thinning would have on the growth rate and vigor of Cottonwood.

The results of the study were not as striking in some respects as might be expected, but it is believed they will be of interest.

The shelterbelt selected for the study was a 1937 belt that was, as a whole, well cared for and uniform. It had two rows of Cottonwood that averaged 19.5 feet in height before any thinning was done. Four alternating sections of 300 feet each were laid out, two sections were left unthinned and two were thinned. The thinning process was to take out alternate Cottonwoods in each row. Sample plots of ten trees each were then established near the center of each section and measurements made of these trees.

Measurements were made on March 24, 1941, at the time of thinning, and again on September 26, 1941, the following information being obtained both times:

- (a) Diameter - $4\frac{1}{2}$ feet above ground
- (b) Maximum crown spread
- (c) Height
- (d) Condition (stunted, thrifty, insects, disease, etc.)

In condensing the data obtained, it shows that the treatment stimulated the growth of the thinned trees over the unthinned as follows:

Height increase 11.3%
Crown spread increase 10.5%
Diameter increase 30.3%

There were not any outstanding differences in the condition of the thinned or unthinned trees.

Perhaps the writer was overly optimistic about the results he thought he would obtain, but he was somewhat disappointed that there was not a greater increase in the height. It is believed, however, that there would have been a more noticeable increase in all measurements of the thinned trees over the unthinned had the moisture conditions been more normal and the competition for soil moisture been more acute.

The average yearly rainfall for the past 11 years, as kept by the local county newspaper, was about 20 inches as compared with over 34 inches for the first $8\frac{1}{2}$ months of this year.

From the figures obtained this year, there is a question as to whether it is a paying proposition to start the thinning of Cottonwood at the height and age these trees were thinned. Perhaps we should wait a little longer???

- Marvin G. Angle, Tex.

OUR EFFORTS BEAR FRUIT

Time and time again since this Project was inaugurated the importance of using only the best quality nursery stock in our plantings has been stressed, and we have in addition made this a rather general recommendation for all types of Plains planting.

Recently a prominent commercial nurseryman in discussing possibilities of selling forest tree seedling stock to Plains farmers, with State Director Emerson and the writer, made the remark that there is no longer a demand for small-size stock. He said that farmers are now buying the larger stock; whereas, formerly there was a great demand for 6- to 12-inch stock (radio specials) which is the grade we cull out.

This nurseryman attributed the change in the farmers' preference to the efforts of Government tree-planting agencies. All of which indicates that the public is becoming increasingly aware of our practices and recommendations.

- Harold E. Engstrom, R.O.

STATE OFFICE HAS LUNCHEON FOR EXTENSION WORKERS

For the third consecutive year, the Kansas State Office had a luncheon for county agents and other Extension workers gathered at Manhattan for the annual Extension conference. But they also did something new this year - they had a luncheon for Extension women as well. As so often happens in this vale of tears, the women outdid the men. There were 101 guests at the ladies' luncheon, while the men could muster only 86 at theirs.

Miss Mary Rokahr, Specialist in Home Management from the Washington Office of the Extension Service, made the principal address, and Miss Georgiana Smurthwaite, Home Demonstration Agent Leader for Kansas, also made a short talk.

The men's group included county agents from counties where the Project operates, Farm Bureau presidents from these counties, and a few project leaders and township tree committeemen who happened to be in Manhattan to attend the annual meeting of the Kansas State Farm Bureau. The principal speaker was Dr. O. O. Wolfe, president of the Kansas State Farm Bureau. Dean L. E. Call, of the agricultural college, and Extension Director Umberger also spoke.

The previous Forest Service-Extension Service luncheons are credited with doing a lot toward cementing relationships between the two organizations, and from all reports this year's affair should do at least as much.

TALL TREE

The General Sherman tree, a sequoia in the Sequoia National Park, is 272 feet high and some authorities set its age at 4,000 years. When the General Sherman was a sturdy young sapling, Babylon was a village of nomads; Greece and Rome were a thousand years away. It was 3,000 years old when Lief Ericcson first saw America.

- American Wildlife

BRAGGIN' (And We Don't Blame Him)

Comes the first of November and we remember that we figgered on writing a piece for PLAINS FORESTER this month. The reason we remember this so easily is that the October number had an article about a belt up in South Dakota which has produced seed on several species. Right there on page 11 is a modest description of the belt and trees which have seeded.

We are glad that the Gentleman from South Dakota opened the pot with small chips, thereby making it possible for us to contribute further. We shall describe only one of our "medium" belts, lest Mr. Martley was hiding a couple of Jacks in his boot tops.

The Ed Curtis (1935) belt has Red Cedar which produced seed in 1939. At least one of these seed has sprouted and we now have a seedling over one year old. For this we lay claim to the prize offered by Dave Olson in an unguarded moment through the medium of PLAINS FORESTER for the "first Conifer seedling."

The John Babek (1936) planting has 16 species planted in it. Every one of them has produced seed this year. They are Green Ash, Western Walnut, Hackberry, Black Walnut (direct seeding), Osageorange, Honeylocust, Cottonwood, American Elm, Golden Currants, Desert Willow, Apricot, Mulberry, Black Locust, Chinese Elm, Silver Maple, and Chinese Date (Jujube, planted by John himself). Some of these trees produced their fourth crop of seed this year. When it comes to height I hesitate to stick to "the whole truth" lest my veracity be questioned by incredulous disbelievers who have never seen trees of this age reach such heights. The Honeylocust, Cottonwood, Chinese Elm and American Elm have reached 42 to 46 feet. The Hackberry (a supposedly slow-growing tree) has reached a height of 28 feet. There has been considerable speculation by Paul Roberts, Hank Lobenstein, Dave Olson, Jack Nelson, Ed Kotok and others as to which of the five species mentioned above will eventually reach the greatest height.

The cooperator described by Mr. Martley is similar to Mr. Babek (pronounced Barbek). John owns 76 acres of land, 14 of which are planted to shelterbelts. John planted his own shelterbelt on two sides and through the middle of the farm in 1923. He makes a good living on this farm and is saving money. He practices a live-at-home program, takes his wheat to the flour mill and stores it. When he needs flour he "draws" upon this store. He never raises wheat unless his supply is getting low. His livestock and the sale of poultry and milk products furnishes all the food needed. His cotton crop is used to buy all necessary clothes and accessories. This year he will raise about 20 bales of cotton (\$2000.00 net) on 26 acres. This is a tidy sum when you look over his large feed crop, his hog pen, several beef calves, dairy cows, chickens, orchard and garden products which have been canned. (Pardon, but we are getting off the subject of braggin'.)

We have one species of trees which is entirely exclusive and cannot be challenged by any other district. This is the Short Leaf Pine, planted in the Ed Curtis belt in 1935. These trees have reached a height of more than 24 feet (haven't measured them lately) and are topped only by the Chinese Elm in the entire belt. When Ed Kotok saw these trees he said, "Well, I'll be---" and then again said, "Well, I'll be---." After a little he said, "Well, I don't know what I'll be, but this just can't be possible. If I wasn't looking at them I wouldn't even believe it."

- Howard Carleton, Jr., Okla.

GETS TWO PHEASANTS WITH A HOE

We would like to have it distinctly understood that this Palladium of Truth and Conservation assumes no sponsorship, implied or otherwise, for the following yarn. It came to us as a press clipping from the Milnor (N. Dak.) Teller, sent in by Auburn S. Coe. About the only comment we are willing to vouchsafe on the subject is that it may be true, but.....

"We have heard a lot of hunting stories but here is a real 'hot' one.

"LeRoy Holan who is employed with the Forest Service was working in the Ed Thompson shelterbelt with a group of men Friday afternoon when he decided to go back after the truck which was parked at one end of the shelterbelt. He tossed his hoe over his shoulder and started back. He had gone but a short distance when he flushed about fifteen cock pheasants. Mr. Holan, who is an enthusiastic hunter, stuck the hoe to his shoulder and pointed at one of the birds and shouted 'bang.' At that precise moment two of the pheasants crashed into each other in their flight about fifty feet in the air. They both fell to the ground and Mr. Holan made a rush to the spot where they fell. He found one stone dead and about twenty feet away the other one lay, still alive but badly injured.

"Louie Bouchard, who was with the crew, was also an eye witness to the amazing spectacle, so if any doubting Thomases question Mr. Holan's veracity they might question Mr. Bouchard."

THE GENTLE ART OF EDUCATION

At least that is what we hope is exhibited in the following press release gotten out, complete with photos, for the Norfolk (Nebr.) Daily News:

RED FOX IS CAUGHT AT FOREST SERVICE NURSERY

Foreman Silas Wilde surprised a big red fox at the Forest Service Nursery east of Norfolk, Sunday morning. Wilde and his father had a 22-rifle and a pistol along, and by closing in on the fox from opposite ends of the tree rows, managed to get several effective shots. As the fox is an unusually large one, Si intends to have it mounted.

Nurseryman Carl A. Taylor says that very few jack rabbits have been seen at the nursery this summer, and thinks that the fox has been doing a good job of rodent control at the nursery.

It is said that the thing that distinguishes information from propaganda is that the recipient is allowed to draw his own conclusions from the facts presented. In this case, then, he would be called upon to decide whether the fox was more valuable to the Forest Service as a controller of rabbits or to the foreman as a parlor decoration.

- E. L. Perry, R.O.

NURSERYMAN SHOWS WHAT SHELTERBELTS WILL DO FOR HOME GARDEN

How over \$200.00 worth of garden vegetables can be raised from an initial investment of \$1.35 plus a little labor was clearly demonstrated at the Enderlin Nursery the past summer, when in cooperation with the Extension Department of the North Dakota Agriculture College, we planted one of the demonstration gardens distributed throughout North Dakota by the Demonstration Agents.

The seeds for these gardens with a few additional ones purchased locally were selected and sent out by the Agriculture College at an initial cost to the producer of \$1.00 for the assortment. A complete layout plan with planting instructions was also furnished.

Picking a piece of ground (about 1/2 acre) which was not suitable for nursery purposes on account of the shallow topsoil and gravel subsoil, we laid out and planted the garden on May 10. The plot in question was well protected with trees, having a shelterbelt on three sides and a shrub row of five-foot Honeysuckle on the fourth side. The plot was well drained, being on a hill-top, and what topsoil there is was of good texture for garden vegetables. It had previously been a weed patch.

The following seeds were furnished by the Extension Department: sweet corn, three varieties; watermelon, one variety; squash, two varieties (banquet and buttercup); tomatoes, two varieties (bison and bounty); green beans, one variety; coreless carrots, one variety; green peas, one variety.

The above seeds were furnished for \$1.00. Besides the above, we purchased 35¢ worth of seed consisting of the following: radishes, lettuce, cucumbers (three kinds), dill, cabbage, parsley, and salsify. One half bushel of white potatoes carried over from previous winter were planted, as well as one sweet potato plant raised in the house as an ornamental plant was split up to make eight hills of sweet potatoes.

The approximate value of the vegetables harvested amounted to \$211.00 at prevailing market prices. The harvest was as follows: radish \$1.00; dill \$1.00; cabbage \$3.00; parsley \$1.00; cucumbers, 28 bushels, value \$30.00; sweet potatoes \$1.00; white potatoes \$2.00; salsify \$1.00; sweet corn \$5.00; watermelons \$1.00; muskmelons \$1.00; squash \$4.00; tomatoes, 55 bushels, \$150.00; green peas \$3.00; green beans \$3.00; beets \$2.00; carrots \$2.00.

Ordinary care was taken of the garden with extensive cultivation and weeding being done by the producer and his family on summer evenings. Over 300 persons visited and inspected the garden. Moving picture and colored slides were taken of the garden throughout the summer by the Greater North Dakota Association, the Agriculture College, the County Extension Agent, members of the Forest Service and several private parties. A display of an assortment of vegetables from the garden were inaugurated into the Forest Service Display at the annual corn show at Enderlin in September, and an entry of bounty tomatoes in the open class division with severe competition took first place at the show.

We canned scores of quarts of vegetables for winter consumption, while all our friends and the employees working at the nursery shared in the bountiful surplus produced.

It was clearly demonstrated that the protection of the trees marked the success of the garden, as nearby demonstration gardens not protected by trees, failed to produce half as much and in some cases were failures.

It was a mighty fine example of what the average individual or farmer can do toward the "Food-for-Freedom" campaign.

- Thomas C. Hutchinson, N.Dak.

NICE GOING

I believe the County Agents and County AAA Committees are becoming more interested in the shelterbelt program from year to year.

The County Agent, H. L. Murphey, of Coldwater, Kansas, will have two belts planted next spring, a seven-row belt and an intermediate belt. (A District Forester in the northern part of the State may think he will use it to hide from the Comanche Indians, but he won't.) The chairman of the AAA Committee will plant two 10-row belts, each one half a mile long. He also has a 1937 and a 1941 belt. The other two members of the committee would like to have shelterbelts, but their soil is not suitable.

At recent Defense Board and AAA meetings the shelterbelt program has been mentioned several times as a beneficial activity - and not by the Forest Service representative present, either.

- Alva L. Swarner, Kans.

EXTENSION DIRECTOR PRAISES PROJECT

In response to the annual report furnished by the State Office to the Extension Service, State Director Cobb received the following letter from E. J. Haslerud, Director of Extension:

"This is to acknowledge receipt of your annual report of activities dated October 16.

"Ordinarily I lay aside reports for reading at a later time. However, this report was so intensely interesting that I read it through immediately.

"I am surprised at the amount of work that you have been able to accomplish under handicaps. I was pleased to know that the land use planning committees and our Extension Service had been of service to you in advancing the program at least one year in some parts of our State. I was impressed by the contributions made by local communities, counties and individuals, which shows the tremendous interest in this work, and also the extensive co-operation with so many of our agencies.

"I feel that you should be highly complimented for such excellent achievement."

PERSONNEL SHIFTS IN NORTH DAKOTA

The North Dakota unit has seen many changes this fall due to reorganization, as well as having several of its men leave for defense employment or enlistment.

Al Ratcliff, of the State Office, entered the Railway Mail Service, which necessitated bringing Dick Lassen in from the Devils Lake office. Lassen later enlisted in the Army and is at present at an Air Corps Camp at Wichita Falls, Texas. Bud Pears and Wayne Wood took employment with a construction company that is building an Army base in Newfoundland. Victor Anderson was transferred to the Soil Conservation Service from Rugby. Conrad Borsting, Oakes, and Claude Asp, Enderlin, were transferred from Oklahoma, and John Zaylskie, Devils Lake, from Nebraska. Merrill Willson was transferred from Enderlin to Devils Lake, "Red" Nermoe from Oakes to Casselton, and Lester Hansen from Devils Lake to Rugby. So very few of our field men are in the positions they have recently held.

Then, on November 1, we were assigned the Park Service CCC Camp at Larimore, to which G. A. Freeman was transferred as Technician. Former Forest Service CCC men were transferred from Chippewa and Superior National Forest Camps in Minnesota that had been closed. These are as follows: Frank H. Anderson, Camp Superintendent - Willard Wright, Gerald A. Kruse, Ernest T. Wellberg, Senior Foremen - Clarence G. Smiglowksi, Automotive Mechanic - John L. Kersisnik, Jr. Foreman - Joe Deanovic, Clerk, is from a Minnesota State Forest Service Camp.

The Camp quota is filling rapidly and it is expected to have 165 men when completed. The Commanding Officer is Lieutenant Cogdall and the Educational Advisor, Mr. Winkes.

It is planned to have the technical men attend training and orientation meetings to acquaint them with the work we are doing. These are all a fine group of men and we welcome them to our organization.

- F. E. Cobb, N.Dak.

WEDDING BELLS

Mr. and Mrs. John Elesperger announce the marriage of their daughter, Agnes Elizabeth, to Mr. Russell Leslie Ebel, on Saturday the eighth of November, Nineteen Hundred and Forty-One, at Devils Lake, North Dakota.

Mr. Ebel is the Jr. Clerk Stenographer at Valley City, North Dakota.

We wish Mr. Ebel and his bride all the wealth of happiness marriage can bring.

- Leroy C. Baskin, N.Dak.

OLD TREES

A memorial avenue of trees, 24 miles long, was planted along the road to the tomb of Ieyasu, Japanese leader, in 1651, and 18,308 of the trees still stand.

- Clipped